United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

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Date: September 11, 2008

Subject: 2008 ANF Emerald Ash Borer Surveys

To: Leanne M. Marten, Forest Supervisor
Allegheny National Forest

Starting in May 2008, personnel from this office began surveying for the emerald ash borer on the Allegheny National Forest (ANF). This year's survey included the use of purple panel traps, site visits, visual surveys, campground questionnaires, and sweep net surveys. We did detect several buprestid beetles on our traps at the Marienville Ranger Station, Loleta Recreation Area and Buckaloons campgrounds, none of which appear to be EAB, but these samples have been forwarded to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for final identification. The accompanying map shows the general locations of this year's survey.

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle that has been found in several States, including Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, and West Virginia. Since its accidental introduction sometime in the late 1990s, this beetle has caused millions of dollars in damage to ash trees across the Midwest, and has produced wide-ranging quarantines and regulations on movement of ash trees and firewood in the hopes of preventing further spread. The emerald ash borer impacts all North American species of ash trees, and may be spread over long distances through the transport of trees and wood products, such as nursery stock and firewood.

In late May, a prism trap was hung in host [ash] trees at 11 locations throughout the ANF (table 1). These purple traps were baited to attract emerald ash borer adults and covered in a sticky material to catch flying adults. This prism trap survey was part of a multistate, multiagency effort with participation from numerous State agencies and universities, including State Agriculture and Forestry Divisions, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Forest Service, and other Federal agency lands throughout Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Maryland. Once again, we used site visits to identify campgrounds with ash trees and to look for the signs and symptoms of the emerald ash borer. During this survey, ash trees that showed symptoms of decline (yellow or offcolor foliage, epicormic sprouting) or dieback, or trees that died within the last 1 to 2 years, were inspected for D-shaped exit holes, vertical bark splits, and woodpecker activity. In addition, we added a sweep net survey and camper questionnaire to our sample protocol this year. Sweep net surveys involve sweeping the foliage of ash trees with a net and looking for feeding adult beetles. The camper questionnaire was used to obtain information about the amount and source of firewood (considered a potential pathway for EAB movement) used at the campground, along with the zip code of visitors.

Eight new areas were visited this year, bringing the total number of areas visited to 20 (table 1). Nine areas were selected as questionnaire sites this year, and 29 campers consented to completing our questionnaire. The results from this limited sample show that 25 percent of the

firewood brought to the ANF originated either from within the Pennsylvania quarantined counties or from outside the State. The questionnaire also revealed that 93 percent of campers use firewood during their stay, and, on average, they bring or buy about 43 pieces of firewood.

The emerald ash borer has become a major forest pest of ash in the Eastern United States. It cannot be stressed enough that this insect is coming, and decisions need to be made now to educate your staff and visitors about this insect. It is hoped that at the very least a communication plan can be developed to deal with this situation. Educational information about this borer is available on the World Wide Web (http://www.emeraldashborer.info/) and through this office and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. We hope that this information will be used throughout the Forest. We would also request that your personnel work with this office to identify and survey ash resources located throughout the MNF.

Please remind District Rangers and other field-going personnel that they have the primary responsibility for on-the-ground, initial detection of insect and/or disease outbreaks. We ask that all field personnel continue to monitor for evidence of insect activity and tree defoliation, discoloration, and mortality in their areas, and report any insect and disease activity to the Morgantown Field Office.

If you or any of your staff have any questions or comments regarding this survey, please contact Rick Turcotte at (304) 285–1503.

Sincerely,

ROBERT G. LUECKEL
Field Representative
Morgantown Field Office

Enclosures
Cc: District Ranger, Bradford RD
District Ranger, Marienville RD
Robert White, Forest Silviculturist
Andrea Hille, Asst. Forest Silviculturist
Sven-Erik Spichiger, PDA

RMT/AKS/DS

Table 1. ***Allegheny National Forest Emerald Ash Borer Survey Information, through September 2008.***

Site*	Ash Present	Visited 2007	Visited 2008 (New Site)	Questionnaire Sites 08	Sweep Net Sites 08	Purple Trap Sites 08
Hopewell Boat Access Campground	Yes	Y				
Pine Grove Boat Access Campground	Yes	Y				
Hooks Brook Boat Access Campground	Yes	Y				
Minister Creek Campground	Yes	Y	Y			
Handsome Lake Boat Access Campground	Yes	Y				
Bear Creek Campground						
Kelly Pines Campground						
Morrison Boat Access Campground	Yes	Y				
Red Mill Campground						
Tionesta Boat Access Campground						
Tracy Ridge Rec Area	Yes	Y	Y	Y		
Hearts Content Rec Area	Yes	Y	Y			
Willow Bay Rec Area	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Red Bridge Rec Area	Yes		Y	Y	Y	Y
Kiasutha Rec Area	Yes		Y	Y	Y	Y
Dewdrop Rec Area	Yes		Y	Y	Y	Y
Beaver Meadows Rec Area	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tionesta Recreation Area Campground (COE site)	Yes		Y			
Buckaloons Campground	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Loleta Rec Area	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Irwin Run/Clarion River Canoe Launch	Yes		Y	Y	Y	Y
Durhing FR 124	Yes		Y			Y
Tionesta SR 666	Yes		Y			Y
Marienville Ranger Station	Yes		Y			Y

*Y = Sites visited and surveyed by Morgantown Field Office, USDA Forest Service

Figure 1. – General locations of EAB surveys.